

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Simon Bowie-Briton

Filing Date: Herewith

Attorney File No.: 14846-48

Entitled: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR MANAGING
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A NETWORK OF
PROCESSES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102

SIR:

It is requested that the above-captioned patent application, filed herewith, be granted Special status for accelerated examination. As set forth in MPEP § 708.02(VIII), such a petition requires: (1) that all claims be directed to a single invention; (2) a pre-examination search; (3) copies of the references identified in the search deemed most closely related to the claimed subject matter; (4) a detailed discussion pointing out with particularity how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references; and (5) the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(h). As set forth in more detail below, Applicants have complied with each of these requirements and granting of this Petition is respectfully requested.

I. APPLICANT'S CLAIMED INVENTION

Applicants' claimed invention is directed to systems and methods for managing successful completion of a network of processes. The network of processes can be represented as a graph. In this representation, the nodes of the graph represent the processes, and the edges of the graph represent events associated with the processes. Processing starts at the root node, and is based on the result of an initially unknown graph. When an event is to be produced or consumed, a message to that effect is transmitted to a component called a Q-Manager. Using the messages, which are received in event order, the Q-Manager keeps track of the state of the graph, and determines when successful completion of the processing has occurred. Once this occurs, the Q-

Manager sends a notification indicating completion of the network.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method for managing successful completion of a network of processes. Independent claim 12 is directed to a system for managing successful completion of a network of processes. Independent claim 17 is directed to a computer-readable medium for storing instructions for carrying out the method steps of claim 1.

Should the Examiner determine that the claims are not directed to a single invention, Applicants will make an election without traverse according to established telephone-restriction practice. MPEP 708.02(VIII).

II. PRE-EXAMINATION SEARCH

A pre-examination search was performed by the professional search firm of Gilman Research Services, LLC (“Gilman”) to locate the U.S. Patents and U.S. Patent Publications relevant to the inventive concept (the “Search”). Gilman is located at 42 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y., Tel: 212.675.9655, and has a web page address of <http://www.gilmanresearch.com>.

The following classes and subclasses were searched.

Class	Subclasses
370	395.2, 395.5, 395.51, 328, 351, 236, 230, 410, 401, 238.1, 233, 248, 241, 396, 238, 239, 353, 342, 352, 400, 355, 469, 389, 348, 229, 254-258
709	227, 220, 241, 236, 242, 247, 240, 238, 228
705	30
707	103, 201, 3, 101, 8, 102, 4, 100, 104, 6

Gilman pointed out four references deemed most closely related to the claimed subject matter:

(1) U.S. Patents 6,381,609 (issued Apr. 30, 2002) and 6,502,095 (issued Dec. 31, 2002) to Breibart et al. (“Breibart”);

(2) U.S. Publication 2002/0116205 (published Aug. 22, 2002) to Ankireddipally et al. (“Ankireddipally”); and

(4) Strom et. al, “*Gryphon: An Information Flow Based Approach to Message Brokering*”, IBM TJ Watson Research Center (“Strom”)

(collectively referred to herein as the “Relevant References”). Each of the Relevant References is discussed in detail below.

Nothing in this Petition should be construed as an admission that any reference identified in the Search or discussed herein is available as prior art to the above-captioned application.

III. DETAILED DISCUSSION OF PATENTABILITY

The claimed subject matter of the above-captioned patent application is patentable over the Relevant References. Applicants provide detailed discussion in this Section that points out with particularity how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the Relevant References.

A. U.S. PATENTS 6,381,609 (ISSUED APR. 30, 2002) AND 6,502,095 (ISSUED DEC. 31, 2002) TO BREIBART

The subject matter of the above-captioned patent application is patentable over Breibart. Breibart does not disclose a technique for detection of the end of processing of a network of processes. Breibart ‘609 involves a system and method for serializing lazy updates in a distributed database without requiring timestamps. Breibart ‘095 involves a timestamp-based system and method for serializing lazy updates in a distributed database. These two patents relate to the field of distributed database systems, and involve techniques for updating data across a distributed database, particularly where data is replicated. A network of processes is not disclosed. Neither of these references discloses any method or system for determining successful completion of a network of processes. Since Breibart does not teach or suggest Applicants’ claimed invention, Applicants’ invention as claimed is patentable over Breibart.

B. U.S. PUBLICATION 2002/0116205 (PUBLISHED AUG. 22, 2002) TO ANKIREDDIPALLY

The subject matter of the above-captioned patent application is patentable over Ankireddipally. Ankireddipally does not disclose a technique for detection of the end of processing of a network of processes. Rather, this reference discloses a distributed transaction processing system. The distributed transaction processing system includes a process automation application, referred to as a commerce exchange server, that manages transaction processing and message flow among application programs in a distributed computer network such as the Internet. The system includes a specially designed application interaction protocol that implements the request-reply, publish-notify and broadcast application interaction models. Ankireddipally does not disclose a network of processes or any method or system for

determining successful completion of a network of processes. Since Ankireddipally does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention, Applicants' invention as claimed is patentable over Ankireddipally.

C. STROM ET. AL, "GRYPHON: AN INFORMATION FLOW BASED APPROACH TO MESSAGE BROKERING" ("STROM")

The subject matter of the above-captioned patent application is patentable over Strom. Strom does not disclose a technique for detection of the end of processing of a network of processes. Instead, Strom relates to managing streams of information from various information brokers to information consumers, e.g., a combination of information sources, such as NASDAQ and NYSE stock quotes. Strom does not disclose a network of processes or any method or system for determining successful completion of a network of processes. Since Strom does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention, Applicants' invention as claimed is patentable over Strom.

Accordingly, because the Relevant References fail to teach or suggest one or more feature recited in the claimed subject matter, these references, either alone or in combination, would not have anticipated or rendered obvious the claimed subject matter.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants' have met all the requirements for accelerated examination set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.102 and as detailed in MPEP § 708.02(VIII). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request this case be made special for expedited examination. Please charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h), estimated to be \$ 130.00, to Deposit Account No. 501358.

Respectfully submitted,



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